



Loudoun County, Virginia

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Clerk of the Circuit Court

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Clerk of the Circuit Court

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Gary M. Clemens, warn citizens of 'jury duty' scam.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Loudoun County are advising residents of recent fraud cases often referred to as the 'jury duty' scam. In recent cases, the caller claims to be a local court worker or a member of local law enforcement, and states that a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you failed to report for jury duty. The caller goes on to say that you can avoid arrest by paying a fine. In most cases the caller asks the victim to obtain a GreenDot MoneyPak card from a local store.

"These types of scams prey on a person's fears," said Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman. "The suspect's plan is to use the appearance of authority and the threats of arrest in hopes that the victim will be more willing to provide the money," added Sheriff Chapman.

According to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office and the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, only the judges of the circuit court can order the payment of fines for failure to report for jury duty, but individuals would be required to attend a court hearing and explain why they neglected to report for jury duty before any fines are assessed. Under no circumstance would a law enforcement official in Virginia be permitted to collect fines of this nature.

"Jury service is an important civic duty and we do not want potential jurors to be intimidated or discouraged to serve as jurors by virtue of individuals who use these deceitful tactics to extort money from unsuspecting citizens," said Gary M. Clemens, Loudoun Clerk of the Circuit Court. "Jury scams will not be tolerated in Loudoun County and I appreciate the Sheriff's Office response to reports of jury scams," Clemens added.

If you are a resident of Loudoun County and believe you were a victim of this scam or of a similar scam, please contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's at 703-777-1021 or file a report online at <http://sheriff.loudoun.gov/reportonline>. Scams are occurring with great frequency and take various forms. Please visit the website <http://www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com/> for further information on the variety of consumer scams that are taking place.

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